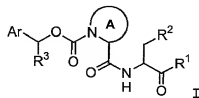


### Abstract

This invention provides caspase inhibitors having the formula:



wherein Ring A is an optionally substituted piperidine, tetrahydroquinoline or tetrahydroisoquinoline ring; R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, CHN<sub>2</sub>, R, or -CH<sub>2</sub>Y; R is an optionally substituted group selected from an aliphatic group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a heterocyclic group, or an heterocyclylalkyl group; Y is an electronegative leaving group; R<sup>2</sup> is CO<sub>2</sub>H, CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, or esters, amides or isosteres thereof; Ar is an optionally substituted aryl group; and R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, F<sub>2</sub>, CN, aryl or R<sup>3</sup> is attached to Ar to form an unsaturated or partially saturated five or six membered fused ring having 0-2 heteroatoms. The compounds are useful for treating caspase-mediated diseases in mammals.